Toronto metro

WEEKEND, MARCH 17-19, 2017

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PROVINCE PROMISES RENT CONTROL

HOUSING MINISTER CALLS COSTS 'UNACCEPTABLE'

THE FRUSTRATING HISTORY OF HOW WE GOT HERE

LANEWAY SUITES SOUND BETTER AND BETTER

metroNEWS

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Tory leadership hopeful is the poster boy for Guatemalan bathroom hygiene. **Canada**

Tattoo artist dedicates skills to lost women

MISSING & MURDERED

Jennifer Liles inks skin to help searching families

Toronto tattoo artist Jennifer Liles gives Celeste Toledo a tattoo that represents missing indigenous women. The tattoo features the letters I, M, and W. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto tattoo artist Jennifer Liles leans over Celeste Toledo's arm, the distinctive buzz of her tattooing needle blending with the Nas album reverberating through her small west-end studio.

It's Valentine's Day, but Liles isn't inking a heart or lover's name into Toledo's forearm. It's a monogram — MMIW — and it stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

This same day, hundreds of people gathered in front of Toronto Police Headquarters on College St. to remember and honour missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, trans and two-spirit people at the 12th annual Strawberry Ceremony.

It is the reason Liles chose Feb. 14 to launch her tattoo project — to raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada.

On the 14th day of each month, for as long as she can manage, the native artist from Kenora, Ont., will create symbolic tattoos for clients and give the day's earning to a family or organization searching for answers and justice.

This first session was dedicated to Delaine Copenace, a 16-year-old from Kenora who was reported missing on Feb. 28, 2016. Her body was found in a lake three weeks later. Officials ruled her death an accidental drowning, a conclusion Delaine's mother doesn't accept.

It was Delaine's tragic story that struck a chord with Liles.

"(I was thinking about) myself, my friends, kids I went to school with, the awareness kind of came over me — this s–t happens everywhere,' even in your small, tiny little hometown. It happens everywhere."

After reaching out to Delaine's mother, Anita Ross, to get her blessing for the dedication, Liles created four pages of tattoo designs including American traditional and black-and-grey fine-line styles that are popular with "tattoo collectors" now, and also designs that incorporate Haida and Northern Ontario iconography. Potential clients can pick a tattoo from the pages or bring their own design. Liles said it didn't matter what people want tattooed, as long as they want their money to go to charity.

The proceeds from the March 14 session — still open for bookings — will go to the Edmonton Sisters4Sisters Society. It's non-profit founded in memory of Georgina Faith Papin, who was murdered by serial killer Robert Pickton, and supports families that have lost mothers, sister, wives and daughters lost to violence. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ACTIVISM!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD THIS WEEKEND

Syrian uprising anniversary
Members of the Syria Solidarity Collective will hold a vigil in remembrance of thousands of people who lost their lives in the ongoing unrest that started six years ago. The event takes place at Queen's Park Friday starting at 5 p.m. After the vigil, the public is invited to attend documentary screenings about the Syrian conflict.

Scarborough Action for Rent Control
ACORN members are inviting the public to come together and hold politicians accountable by demonstrating that they're "fed up" with unaffordable rent prices in the city. A demonstration will take place Tuesday March 21 from 1 p.m. at 4117 Lawrence East

Counter-demonstration Against Islamophobia and Fascism
Folks opposed to the anti-Islamophobic motion currently under debate in Parliament are staging nationwide rallies, and Toronto isn't letting them go unopposed. A counter-rally takes place at Nathan Phillips Square Sunday from 11:30 a.m., with participants spreading messages of unity and diversity.

TRANSIT

Planned stations may lower ridership: Report

Some new stations planned as part of Mayor John Tory's SmartTrack project have so little anticipated demand that they could cause a drop in public transit ridership, leading to millions more kilometres driven on the region's roads, according to new government reports.

The initial business cases were published Thursday by Metrolinx, the provincially-owned organization responsible for transit planning in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, and could undermine the case for SmartTrack while raising fresh questions about council's plans for a transit network in Scarborough.

In an email, a spokesperson for the mayor's office dismissed the reports as "year-old information," most of which had "already been released in various forms through city and Metrolinx reports."

A city spokesperson said the Metrolinx studies of individual stations were "helpful" but "do not fully capture" the benefits of the "network approach" that the city is taking towards transit planning. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Starting at
$719
DAILY FLIGHTS

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POLICE A FURRY FRIEND IN TIMES OF NEED Handler Meagan Phelps works with Dandy on Thursday in the dog's personal office at the 11 Division police station. Victim Services is now employing Toronto's first-ever police therapy dog, a two-year-old Labrador retriever. Dandy is specially trained to comfort traumatized people during interviews. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Game closes gap in census data

INCLUSION

Interactive exercise meant to challenge stereotypes

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto Ward Museum founder Gracia Dyer Jalea hopes the new interactive game will challenge stereotypes and influence changes in how census data is collected. CONTRIBUTED

Want to better understand what the complex data from the census means? There's a game for that.

Not Just Numbers, a new project from the Toronto Ward Museum, is an interactive mystery game that gets participants to identify shortcomings in census data.

Participants in the game are divided into different groups and presented with different envelopes containing basic facts about somebody — anything from a name, date of birth, nationality, spoken languages, religion or place of residence, just like on the census sheet.

A facilitator then leads a discussion about who that person is and what their lifestyle might be, and then they're shown actual details of the individual in question and compare them to their formed assumptions based on the census data.

While confronting preconceived biases can be uncomfortable, the exercise is meant to challenge stereotypes and highlight what the census is unable to properly capture, said Toronto Ward Museum's founder Gracia Dyer Jalea.

"There's definitely a lot of gaps in the government data collection," she said, noting people recently got excited about the return of long-form census but the exercise still lacks options in ethnicity and gender.

"I'm much more likely to have an idea of who you are based on your Facebook page than the census entry."

The museum plans to take its game across the country, setting up photo booths where the public will share ideas on what they would like to see added into the census process. The project is already in the process of collecting the country's stories of migration and diversity, and they hope the game will take the discussions of inclusion further ahead.

"We just want to see community engagement drive important institutional changes," said Jalea.

DETAILS

- The **Not Just Numbers** game was developed in association with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Toronto Public Library and Myseum of Toronto.
- It will debut at the **Myseum Intersectional Festival** next Thursday at the Toronto Reference Library, before travelling to Halifax in April and Ottawa in July.

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Housing minister says rent control will expand

A HISTORY OF RENT CONTROL IN TORONTO

Metro with files from Torstar News Service

1975: Bill Davis's Conservative government introduces rent controls. Rent hikes are initially limited to 8 per cent per year. New buildings are exempt. Rent controls are scheduled to end on July 31, 1977, but are later extended.

1978: A government report concludes eliminating rent control may be the best option, and suggests a tribunal be set up to mediate some landlord-tenant disputes.

1979: Under new landlord-tenant legislation, rent control stays indefinitely. Increases are limited to 6 per cent unless landlords can prove to new Residential Tenancies Commission they need more to recover costs.

1986: The Residential Rent Regulation Act introduces a new formula for rent increases, based on inflation and landlords' operating costs. Rent control is extended to all rental units in the province.

1988: Royal commission recommends scrapping residential rent controls.

1992: Under new NDP rent control legislation, guidelines are based on inflation plus a 2 per cent allowance for repairs, with any increases above that limited to 3 per cent. New buildings are exempt for five years.

1998: Progressive Conservative government removes rent control on newly vacant units. For existing tenants, landlords are allowed to raise rent based on a government-set guideline plus amounts required to pay for repairs, cost increases, capital expenses, etc. The law makes it easier to evict tenants and rent controls are not applicable to buildings built after 1991.

2003: The Liberals campaign on "repealing the misnamed Tenant Protection Act and replacing it with an effective tenant protection law in our first year of government." After winning office, they do not follow through on their promise.

2011: Progressive Conservative MPP Norm Sterling (Carleton-Mississippi Mills) introduces a private member's bill to close the 1991 loophole after a constituent complains about a 25 per cent rent increase. It fails.

2013: NDP MPP Cindy Forster, (who represents the riding of Welland) puts forward a private member's bill to remove the exemption. It also fails.

LEGISLATION

Exemption for buildings built after 1991 'not working'

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

The province will expand rent control, Ontario's Housing Minister told Metro on Thursday.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that so many Ontarians are faced with housing costs that are rising dramatically," said Chris Ballard, who is also the minister responsible for the poverty reduction strategy.

The comments come as the discussion around housing costs in Toronto reaches a fever pitch.

As reported by Metro, calls for rent control have been mounting from city hall and the NDP in the face of a very low vacancy rate and soaring rents.

The vacancy rate for available apartments in Toronto is 1.3 per cent, and the average rent is $1,233, up 3.1 per cent from 2015, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

metro EFFECT

The announcement comes shortly after Metro began its Code Red series on the housing crisis in Toronto.

Check out the rest of the series at metronews.ca.

Ballard said members of his staff are developing a plan to address unfair rent increases as part of an ongoing review of the Residential Tenancies Act. He declined to comment on whether that would include scrapping legislation that exempts buildings built after 1991 from limits on rent increase or put a timeframe on changes.

That legislation was originally introduced in the 1990s to provide an incentive for developers to build rental housing, but has come under fire in Toronto's housing market for leaving tenants vulnerable to yearly rent hikes of hundreds, or even thousands of dollars.

"Clearly that 1991 exemption is not legislation that's working today," Ballard said.

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns announced this week he will introduce a private member's bill on Monday to end the 1991 exemption. (For all other buildings the province sets yearly guidelines for rent increases, based on factors like the rate of inflation.)

Tabuns, who represents Toronto Danforth, said he's been hearing more and more from tenants about huge rent increases. Some have been forced to move out because they just can't afford the hikes.

"They're put in a very tough situation," he told Metro.

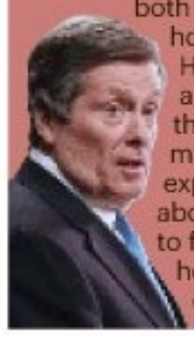
Private member's bills rarely pass. There have been at least two others put forward to scrap the same loophole since 2011.

"You have investor, landlord, and developer interests who really don't want their ability to make a profit constrained in any way," Tabuns said.

> "There shouldn't be second-class tenants here in Ontario."
>
> **Peter Tabuns**

MAYOR WEIGHS IN

John Tory writes to Metro that he is "concerned about affordability for both renters and homebuyers." He's holding a meeting at the end of the month with experts to hear about solutions to fight rising housing costs.



LANEWAY SUITES

Study finds support for laneway housing

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Torontonians have spoken, and they want laneway housing.

As the city continues to grapple with housing issues, findings from an independent study indicate that the public would like to see laneway suites as part of Toronto's housing future.

"People are saying, 'We have this crazy housing market. What's taking us so long?'" said Ward 18 Coun. Ana Bailão, who was part of the team that leading the consultations since last November.

"There are certainly issues that have to be addressed first, but proper guidelines will ensure that we have proper suites being built, and give people an idea of what they can do."

Over 400 people participated in community discussions that explored what laneway suites could look like in the city. Participants expressed concerns over existing "onerous" regulations for building laneway suites, and highlighted the importance of maintaining green space.

The group behind the study will now reach out to different city divisions to get feedback on the technical requirements. By the end of spring, a final report will be handed over to the planning department.

Toronto has more than 300 kilometres of laneways. METRO

GTAA

GTAA Annual Public Meeting

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) hereby gives notice of its Annual Public Meeting.

The GTAA is the operator of Toronto Pearson International Airport, the largest airport in Canada and one of the largest in North America in terms of passenger and air cargo traffic. In 2016, more than 44 million passengers travelled through the airport.

Date/Time: Thursday, May 4, 2017, 12:30 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre,
Muskoka Ballroom II & III,
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BY THE NUMBERS

Paying for Presto

Cities across the GTA worry that Presto fees could increase fourfold. It currently costs seven suburban municipalities two per cent of each fare to use the electronic card. But Durham fears the cut could climb as high as nine per cent as Metrolinx tries to recoup its costs. Queen's Park has made accepting Presto a condition for receiving provincial gas tax payments, which leaves city leaders feeling like they don't have a choice. Here's how similar fees stack up around the world:

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID HAINS FOR METRO

LONDON

While London pays a lower cut for its electronic fare system, it also costs more to ride the tube. The city has to pass on about 10 cents (Cdn) per trip to operate the card.

2%

TORONTO

4.65%

After lengthy negotiations with Metrolinx, the TTC finally agreed to 4.65 per cent in 2012. At the time, the regional transit agency needed the largest city to commit to the card. In the next round of talks, the TTC won't have the same leverage. Over 13 cents of every adult fare goes toward Presto.

VANCOUVER

Vancouver's Compass is produced in-house, so the city doesn't need to pay an external vendor. But a 2013 report projects they'd pay $12 million a year to operate the service, which works out to about seven cents per adult fare.

2.44%

SINGAPORE

0%

Next week, the Asian city's transit agency will launch a pilot project in which Mastercard users can tap on and off with their credit card. It's hoped 100,000 riders will participate.

WINNIPEG

Ten years after announcing its transit card project, Winnipeg implemented Peggo in 2016. About two cents of every adult fare goes toward paying for Peggo.

1%

MUSIC

Souk Sessions introduce Arab techno to the masses

Ali Vanderkruyk
Metro | Toronto

Sara Dziri wants to create a space for something new in the city's music scene: Arab techno.

The DJ, producer and visual artist has been organizing monthly parties called Souk Sessions that fuse electronic and Arabic music.

Her sessions will hit the Royal Ontario Museum tonight as part of the Winter Fridays series. Dziri, who performs under the name Sadziky, will team up with Cheba Khadijah, an Arabic folk musician, for the event.

Dziri's work is influenced by her identity as a Belgian-born clubber with an Islamic upbringing. She's gaining recognition in Toronto for honouring old Arabic songs and traditional Middle Eastern instruments, giving people of various backgrounds a chance to share in a common culture.

"Arab cultural expression is often reduced to a cliché idea of typical sounds and visual ideas," she said. "The reality is that the identity of a lot of young Arabs these days is far more complex than that."

Her monthly Souk Sessions — named after Arab open-air markets and social gatherings — offer everything from Arab house to classical techno to lounge taarab. Arab techno, she says, has the potential to become a household genre.

Find Sara Dziri on Soundcloud at soundcloud.com/sadziky and on Instagram @sadziky_salad.

IN BRIEF

Green beer and ... mumps

As St. Patrick's Day party people gear up to celebrate this Friday, public health officials are cautioning Torontonians that mumps is still kicking around with 43 cases in the city, which is about double the number that was counted about two weeks ago. The hike in cases has been linked to patrons of bars in the city's west end.

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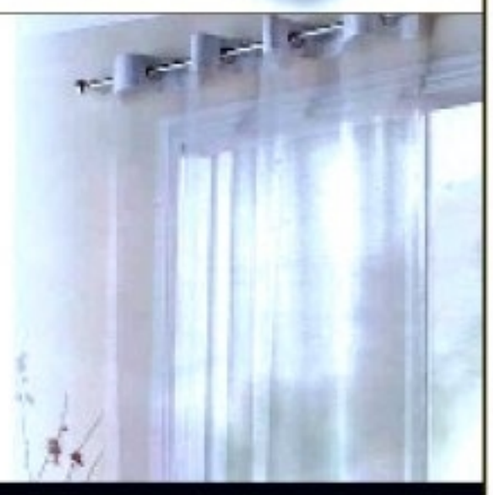

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Charges 'politically motivated': Lawyer

Karim Baratov was arrested as a suspect in a massive hack of Yahoo emails. INSTAGRAM

LEGAL

Karim Baratov is maintaining his innocence

A lawyer for a Canadian man of Kazakh origins arrested as one of four suspects in a massive hack of Yahoo emails said Thursday that the charges against his client may be "politically motivated by the U.S."

Jag Virk suggested that his client, 22-year-old Karim Baratov, is being used as a scapegoat by American authorities.

"I believe (U.S. President) Donald Trump is using this to make it appear as if he is going after Russian hackers," he said. "These allegations are from three years ago."

Baratov maintains his innocence and has no prior criminal record, his lawyer said, adding that people should wait for all facts to emerge in the case.

Toronto police said Baratov was arrested Tuesday in the Ontario community of Ancaster at the request of American authorities.

The U.S. Department of Justice said a grand jury in California has indicted Baratov and three others, two of them allegedly officers of the Russian Federal Security Service, for computer hacking, economic espionage and other criminal offences.

U.S. officials said Baratov also went by the names Kay, Karim Taloverov and Karim Akehmet Tokbergenov.

He was arrested under the extradition act, and appeared in court in Hamilton on Wednesday morning, court staff said. His case was put over until Friday afternoon, when he was expected to appear by video.

An acquaintance described Baratov as an exotic car buff who was popular and flashy but tight-lipped about his personal life — including his job, which involved working with computers.

Also indicted in the alleged conspiracy that authorities said began in January 2014 were Dmitry Aleksandrovich Dokuchaev, 33, Igor Anatolyevich Sushchin, 43, and Alexsey Alexseyevich (Magg) Belan, 29, all Russian nationals and residents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HYGIENE

Michael Chong a poster boy for Guatemala

No one is quite sure just how it happened, but Conservative MP Michael Chong has somehow become the poster boy — literally — for a top-quality, "hygienic" experience in Guatemalan washrooms.

Chong's bright smile was spotted on a poster Thursday just outside a washroom in the Central American country, with his arms folded, hair neatly combed and wearing a business suit.

The poster advertises "a special service for special people like you" in Spanish text. That special service is spelled out below: "sanitary" and "hygienic" bathroom facilities.

The poster was spotted by a visiting Canadian, Bailey Greenspon, who tweeted a photo of it. "Michael Chong, your stock photo is reassuring public washroom users in Guatemala," Greenspon tweeted.

Chong responded with tongue firmly in cheek. "Just part of the Chong campaign's international outreach in Latin America," the leadership hopeful tweeted in reply, adding the hashtag, "#chongtourage" to the end of his post.

Chisholm Pothier, communications director for Chong's leadership campaign, said he doesn't know for sure how Chong ended up being the face of toilet breaks in Guatemala, but it could be because the photos on Chong's website were at one point open for use.

Chong has been a model for nature's call in Guatemala since at least 2015, when another Canadian, Tim McIntosh, said he saw the politician's face on a poster there.

"He actually looks really good," Pothier said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bailey Greenspon and a poster of Michael Chong. CONTRIBUTED

POLITICS

O'Leary claims the Tory leadership race is 'rigged'

Federal Conservative leadership hopeful Kevin O'Leary's campaign is making allegations of what it calls "fraud" and "widespread vote rigging" in the race.

The celebrity businessman's campaign issued a statement Thursday accusing "campaign activists" of using untraceable prepaid credit cards to sign up fake members. The statement says that would violate federal election and campaign financing laws, adding O'Leary's campaign has complained to the party.

Kevin O'Leary

His campaign speculates some of those who have been signed up might not even know they're members.

A Conservative party spokesman says the party is looking into O'Leary's accusations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A new kind of diplomacy

POLITICS

Justin Trudeau trying to get an in with Trump through Ivanka

A businesswoman whose lifestyle brand is struggling with liberals. A liberal-multilateralist prime minister who needs an in with a conservative-nationalist president.

Diplomacy is rooted in interests. And Ivanka Trump and Justin Trudeau both have an interest in hanging out with each other.

The prime minister sat with the president's daughter Wednesday night at the Broadway musical Come From Away, the Canadian show about the Newfoundland town that took in stranded Americans on Sept. 11, 2001. It was his second olive branch to her in just over a month.

Some U.S. news outlets suggested Trudeau had been sending a kind of passive-aggressive message: "Justin Trudeau brought Ivanka Trump to a Broadway show that celebrates generosity towards foreigners in need," the New York Times tweeted. Whether or not that was true, he was also offering a kind of cashless donation to her company.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's budding friendship with Ivanka Trump appears to be a way to get an in with her father, the president of the U.S. INSTAGRAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trudeau joked of his "bromance" with former president Barack Obama. Shared youth and mutual interest in women's issues notwithstanding, his new bestiehood appears much more a marriage of convenience.

"It is just so Game of Thrones," said John Higginbotham, a former Canadian diplomat in Washington, referring to the television show in which warring family dynasties strike strategic alliances in ruthless pursuit of power.

Like Donald Trump before her, Ivanka Trump has made a brand out of her name. Her name has been tarnished, in the eyes of millions of progressive American consumers, by her father's xenophobia and sexism. Who better to be seen with than the fashionable foreign progressive feminist who hugs refugees?

For Trudeau, daughter diplomacy offers the prospect of a lifeline to a president who shares almost none of his principles but who often appears to value personal relationships over ideology and policy — and who appreciates a political gift. Donald Trump has lavished praise upon chief executives who have let him take undeserved credit for their investments.

"It looks as if foreign leaders think the way to approach Trump is by direct or indirect appeals to his ego and personality, rather than in terms of national interests," said Charles Stevenson, a former State Department policy planner who teaches foreign policy at Johns Hopkins University.

Donald Trump, not Ivanka Trump, was Trudeau's original invite to the play, communications director Kate Purchase said. Trump told Trudeau he couldn't make it, Purchase said, "but suggested that perhaps Ivanka Trump could join instead."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Another judge blocks Muslim ban

Rejecting arguments from the government that President Donald Trump's revised travel ban was substantially different from the first one, judges in Hawaii and Maryland blocked the executive order from taking effect as scheduled on Thursday, using the president's own words as evidence that the order discriminates against Muslims.

The rulings in Hawaii late Wednesday and in Maryland early Thursday were victories for civil liberties groups and advocates for immigrants and refugees, who argued that a temporary ban on travel from six predominantly Muslim countries violated the First Amendment. The Trump administration argued the ban was intended to protect the U.S. from terrorism.

In Greenbelt, Maryland, U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang called Trump's own statements about barring Muslims from entering the U.S. "highly relevant."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defence, security the winners in Trump budget, but many others lose

Military spending would get the biggest boost in President Donald Trump's proposed budget. Environmental programs, medical research, Amtrak and an array of international and cultural programs would take big hits.

The budget proposal out Thursday is a White House wish list; it'll be up to Congress to decide where money goes. If Trump gets his way, there will be more losers than winners among government departments and programs. Here is a sampling:

WINNERS

- The Pentagon. Trump proposes a 10 per cent increase in the massive defence budget, with an extra $52 billion going to accelerate the war against the Islamic State group and address insufficient weapons stocks, personnel gaps, deferred maintenance and cyber vulnerabilities.
- Veterans Affairs. Up 5.9 per cent. That's an additional $4.4 billion, driven by ever-growing health care costs. The plan would allocate $3.5 billion to extend an expiring Veterans Choice program.
- Homeland Security. Up 6.8 per cent. That's $2.8 billion more. Most of the increase, $2.6 billion, would be to help kickstart Trump's promised border wall. The president has repeatedly said Mexico would pay for the wall; Mexican officials are adamant that they won't.
- School choice: $1.4 billion more to expand school choice programs, bringing spending in that area to $20 billion, even as the Education Department's overall budget would be cut by $9 billion, or 13 per cent.

LOSERS:

- EPA, facing a 31.4 per cent cut, or $2.6 billion. The plan would cut 3,200 jobs at the agency, eliminate a new plan for tighter regulations on power plants, and "zero out" programs to clean up the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay. EPA climate change research would be eliminated. Grants for state and local drinking and wastewater projects would be preserved.
- Health and Human Services, facing a $12.6 billion cut, or 16.2 per cent. The plan would cut $5.8 billion from the nearly $32 billion National Institutes of Health, the nation's premier medical research agency, bringing its total to $25.9 billion.
- State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development. Down 31 per cent, or $17 billion. Foreign aid would be reduced, as would money to the UN and to multilateral development banks including the World Bank.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acclimatizing to violence

Living in New Orleans, what's shocking isn't the sound of gunfire, but how quickly it becomes quotidian

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

A young man stood outside a pharmacy on a busy New Orleans street this week, selling CDs of his music for $5 a disc.

This isn't unusual here; I've seen young men (not so much women) sell music and paintings outside pharmacies and gas stations. My sister, visiting from Vancouver, bought the CD, and listening to it while driving around, we heard him rap about people he's lost.

He seemed young, maybe not even out of his teens, and the people he wished he could "talk for a minute" with were only 20 or 22. It's not explicit what they were lost to, exactly, but this is New Orleans, and it's a safe bet guns were involved.

The city got off to a violent start in 2017. In just the first month of the year, 75 people were hurt or killed by gunshots, a 50-per-cent jump over 2016, which was an usually violent year in its own right. Last year, 604 guns were reported stolen — up 19 per cent from 2015 — in a trend that police say fuels street violence and arms gangs.

In a way totally foreign to a Canadian, the normalcy of life here exists atop the knowledge that guns are everywhere. Road rage encounters not infrequently turn to shootings. Sitting in my living room, I've heard shots a handful of times. It only took a few months before that fact stopped surprising me, and I play the same game as my neighbours: Gunshot or fireworks?

Activists march against gun violence in Chicago. GETTY IMAGES

The news headlines become routine. A man was shot in an apartment complex in the city's east end on Sunday. Two men and a woman were killed (and another woman injured by a shot to the head) in the Metairie suburb on Wednesday. Last week, a 30-year-old mother and her sons were all shot dead.

In a recent piece for NPR, a reporter noted how mundane all this violence has become, how people absorb it into their daily lives as fact, endure it like the weather.

But it's not exactly that simple. Gun violence is both mundane and an omnipresent threat. It's a psychological underpinning to otherwise innocuous decisions you might make, such as what street to walk down, or whether to flip the bird to another driver. And that's coming from a white ex-pat woman, in a city where 70 per cent of those killed by guns are black men, according to a recent report in the Gambit newspaper. The same report found that my neighbourhood, a predominately black one, is part of a district disproportionately violent compared to other whiter, more affluent parts of town — just one of the myriad ways black New Orleanians face a drastically different life than their white counterparts.

With U.S. President Donald Trump's crusade against "inner cities," the long-debunked "law and order" approach is reigning again in Washington, even though we know that violence is learned, that offenders have often been victims and ending the cycle requires dramatic improvements to health, education, employment and safety. But perhaps the most frustrating fact is just how easy it is to drop into a city so emblematic of this country's racial inequality and extraordinary gun violence, and feel the current of acceptance pull you in, even just a little.

Liz Rizzi, left, allows animal rights activist Michael Dolling to remove the fur collar on her Canada Goose jacket outside the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Company to keep using real fur

BUSINESS

Canada Goose stays the course as it debuts on stock exchange

The head of Canada Goose vowed Thursday to keep using animal fur in its parkas rather than bow to activist pressure as shares of the luxury brand soared nearly 27 per cent in its initial public offering in Toronto.

"We're not looking to change our plans (to use fur) in response to a loud but vocal minority," said president and CEO Dani Reiss as the company made its debut on the Toronto and New York stock markets.

Reiss, whose grandfather founded the company 60 years ago, said Canada Goose has long used duck down feathers and coyote fur in its jackets and is comfortable with the practice because it is a "functional first brand."

"Additionally to that, we make a lot of jackets," he said. "A lot of jackets we make don't have fur on them. We know that wearing different products is a personal choice and we offer products for everybody."

For years, the company has been targeted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The animal-rights group has protested outside Canada Goose's offices, run campaigns against the outerwear maker and recently said it plans on buying around $4,000 worth of shares so it can speak out at annual meetings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

McDonald's investigating anti-Trump tweet

McDonald's says it has been notified by Twitter that its account was "compromised" after it appeared to send a message calling Donald Trump "a disgusting excuse of a President," adding "also you have tiny hands," the tweet told Trump.

A McDonald's rep said the company deleted the tweet, has secured the account and is investigating the matter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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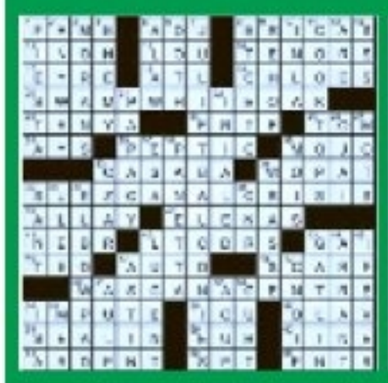

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metro SCIENCE

Your essential science news

Five a day keeps the blues away : The more vegetables you eat, the less stressed you are, an Australian study says

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

ON A WING AND A GAME PLAYER

Honeybees are in trouble. For years, they've been plagued with Colony Collapse Disorder, a strange syndrome killing masses of bees. Why? It's a complicated combo of pesticides, parasites and other factors. For the future of our food supply and economy, we must protect pollinators. But studying them is time-consuming and expensive. **Thanks to a some clever math, that may be about to change.**

WHAT IS BEE ++?
It's a computer program created by Western University mathematicians **Matt Betti** and **Josh LeClair**.

BEE FOR ALL
Bee++ is free, open source and written in the common programming language **C++** (hence the name).

CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGES
You can mess around with many factors that affect bees, like **Viruses** and **parasites** **Pesticides** like bee-killing **neonicotinoids** **Weather**, from real government data **Food**: choose the types of plants and where to put them.

MODEL BEEHAVIOUR
Just like in real life, **different bees have different jobs** (like nurse, queen, forager) and their roles change over time.
As bees drink nectar with pesticides, toxins build up in their bodies, affecting their ability to navigate and find food. They even have a "**digital liver**," so the effect changes over time as the pesticide is digested.

HOW IT WORKS
You plant crops, place your hive, adjust other variables on a grid that represents bee habitats, then start the simulation. As time ticks by, watch and see what happens to the bees. You can also measure outputs like deaths and how much pesticide builds up in bees' bodies.

FUTURE BUZZ
Bee++ was built for primarily for researchers and introduced last week in the journal **Insects**.

Betti hopes environmental authorities may one day use Bee++ to help **predict how their policies will affect bees**.

Bee++ was designed using real research data. The next step is to see how well it predicts the fate of real-world bee colonies.

FINDINGS
Your week in science

STRETCHING SCREENS
Using simple silicon and gel, UBC scientists made a touchscreen that can sense pressure, motion or a hovering finger, even when it's folded or bent. One day, you might be able to just fold out your phone into a tablet.

POWER UP
Speaking of smartphones, Disney has built a prototype "charging room" with a copper pole and aluminum walls that can charge 10 batteries at once — wirelessly. It's safe for people to enter, the company says, and it sounds like something that could come in handy in the future Magic Kingdom.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
In evolution, a **clade** is a group of living things including a common ancestor and all its direct descendents. It's one branch on the tree of life.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
My great-grandmother, my grandma, my mom and me are one big happy **clade**.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Play on, kids. Slime isn't going to kill you.

The Great Slime Panic of 2017. If you have school-age kids, you know what I'm talking about.

Mania for slime – a bouncy, stretchy concoction of water, craft glue, food colouring and borax – is sweeping social media.

But Health Canada recently recommended against using borax in children's arts and crafts, citing possible "developmental and reproductive health effects."

As a rule, I trust Health Canada's scientific expertise completely. But something about this dictum didn't sit right with me.

Canadians have been using borax, a powdery white mineral, as a household detergent for more than a century. And small, harmless amounts of boron, its elemental form, naturally occur in fruits, vegetables and drinking water.

Borax can irritate skin and eyes, and you definitely shouldn't eat it, but could playing with goo really harm your child's future reproductive health? And why is the government suddenly concerned about it?

The second question is easier. Health Canada has launched a long-term project evaluating the safety of chemicals used for a long time, but perhaps not scrutinized enough back in the day.

For insight into the first question, I asked medical toxicologist Dr. Andrew Stolbach.

The highlights: Long-term exposure to high doses of boron is linked to testicular abnormalities in dogs and rats. These studies are small and mostly more than 20 years old.

There are a few small studies of people exposed to high levels of boron for years, which showed slightly elevated rates of fertility problems and miscarriage. But the difference was not significant.

Bottom line: he's fine with his five-year-old daughter playing with borax slime now and then.

"To me, it's a very, very small risk. And it's a theoretical risk."

Science Question?
genna.buck@metronews.ca

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Tale's real beauty is humanity

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Director Bill Condon takes cue from 1946 version of film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Poet Paul Éluard said that to understand Jean Cocteau's 1946 version of La Belle et la Bête — Beauty and the Beast — you must love your dog more than your car. His comment is baffling only if you haven't seen the movie.

Once Cocteau's film is seen, it's apparent that what makes his version rewarding is that it values the organic over the mechanical — even the special effects are handmade. It refuses to allow the technical aspects of the film to interfere with the humanity of the story

This weekend Disney will have their collective fingers crossed that audiences will favour their poodles over their RVs as they release the big-budget, live-action version of Beauty and the Beast starring Emma Watson.

Director Bill Condon says the animated 1991 Disney classic was an inspiration for the new film, but adds he also drew from everything from Twilight and Frankenstein to a 1932 musical comedy called Love Me Tonight when creating the look for the new movie.

He also mentions La Belle et la Bête. "A film I really love." His take on the Beast looked back to the movie, cribbing the character's combination of ferocity and romance from Cocteau.

Bill Condon took inspiration from a variety of films, including Jean Cocteau's La Belle et la Bête. CONTRIBUTED

Before taking in the new version this weekend, let's have a look back at the little-seen 70-year old Cocteau classic.

Loosely based on the timeless Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont fairy tale, the action in La Belle et la Bête begins when a poverty-stricken merchant pilfers a rose from a grand estate owned by a strange creature. The Beast strikes a deal with the man.

He'll spare the life of the merchant in return for the hand of one of the man's daughters. Reluctantly the merchant offers Belle, a beautiful girl who had been courted by the oafish Avenant.

At first she is repulsed by the Beast, who looks like the love child of the Wolf Man and Mrs. Chewbacca, but over time his tender ways and nightly offers of marriage warm her heart and she learns to love him for his inner beauty.

Cocteau's version strays from the original story and Condon's adaptation with the addition of a subplot involving Avenant's scheme to kill the Beast and make off with his treasures and an unexpected magical personality switcheroo.

It's meant to be a happy ending, but not everyone loved the new coda. When Marlene Dietrich saw an early cut of the film at a private screening, she squeezed Cocteau's hand and said, "Where is my beautiful Beast?"

Other audiences embraced Cocteau's vision. In his diary the poet wrote of a test screening held for the technicians in the Joinville Studio were the film had been made. "The welcome the picture received from that audience of workers was unforgettable," he wrote.

Others criticized La Belle et la Bête for its straightforwardness, complaining that the characters are simply drawn, the story one dimensional. Taking that view, however, misses Cocteau's point.

At the beginning of the film he asks for "childlike simplicity," inviting the viewer to connect with their inner child, eschew cynicism and embrace naiveté for the film's 96-minute running time.

In 1946 the request was meant as a salve for a post-occupation France that was still dealing with the aftermath of a terrible war.

Today, in an increasingly contemptuous world, the message still seems timely and welcome.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Beauty and the Beast	★★★
T2 Trainspotting	★★★★
Goon: Last of the Enforcers	★★★
The Sense of an Ending	★★★★
Weirdos	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Mouse House undergoes some real-life renovation

Audra McDonald, who stars as Madame Garderobe in Beauty and the Beast, insists live-action remakes shouldn't upset the animation traditionalists. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Beauty and the Beast sparks Disney's new era of remakes

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Disney is banking on the Beauty and the Beast.

After all, not only is it presumably the most expensive musical ever made, but it will also ring in a new era for the Mouse House — one in which the studio will focus on morphing live-action remakes from its own animated classics.

Of course, they began last year with The Jungle Book and Cinderella but this weekend's Beauty and the Beast officially initiates a new age of live-action adaptations that just may be leaving diehard Disney animation fans moping.

"Traditionalists might think that it means the thing they love so much is being erased but it's not and it's not being shunned in anyway," explained actress Audra McDonald, who portrays Madame Garderobe in this weekend's remake of the 1991 animated blockbuster. "That film is absolutely perfect and no one denies that; Disney isn't trying to get rid of that — they're just exploring."

In fact, McDonald goes one step further, insisting that Disney's investment in reimagining old classics will only benefit fervent film-lovers. While immortal gems certainly have charm, there is a delightful difference in seeing iconic cartoons transformed.

"It just allows for subtler shading that can only be achieved with actual human beings," said the six-time Tony Award-winning thespian.

In fact, whether it's the endearing tale of a beauty that falls in love with a hideous beast or any other animated gem-turned-live action hit, the form of any fairy tale will only be as good as its story.

"This story touches the core in our humanity of wanting to be seen for who we are," said McDonald of what really makes the updated classic work. "No matter what generation we are in, what period of time we're living in, that's always going to be a deeply human thing and that's why I think it continues to resonate."

Three more going live

The Lion King (tbd)

This cherished lion-cub drama will be getting a real-life renovation at the hands of Jungle Book-director Jon Favreau, who has cast Donald Glover (TV's Atlanta) to play Simba while James Earl Jones will return to portray Mufasa.

Dumbo (May 2018)

It's been over 75 years since a big-eared elephant broke hearts in this Disney classic. Now renowned filmmaker Tim Burton will rejuvenate the peppy pachyderm. With a script being written by Ehren Kruger (The Ring), this Dumbo could be a little scary.

Mulan (November 2018)

The 1998 favourite is in the works with director Niki Caro in charge. A tale about one of China's greatest heroines, the studio has put out a casting call for an Asian lead after false rumours that Jennifer Lawrence was cast created an uproar with fans.

Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor) and Spud (Ewen Bremner) are struggling with the transition into adulthood in Trainspotting sequel T2. CONTRIBUTED

Twenty years on, Boyle's wild boys still choose life

INTERVIEW

Long-awaited Trainspotting sequel zeroes in on age issues

As with any long-delayed family reunion, nobody was expecting the sequel to Trainspotting to be a piece of cake, or even a gob of heroin.

Least of all director Danny Boyle and star Ewan McGregor, whose friendship came apart over the casting for Boyle's 2000 terror-in-paradise film The Beach, in which Leonardo DiCaprio got the lead gig McGregor felt Boyle had promised him.

McGregor and Boyle didn't speak for most of the two decades since Trainspotting, a bleak satire about Edinburgh heroin addicts that became Britain's smack-infused answer to the 1990s indie-film revolution spearheaded by the likes of America's Quentin Tarantino and Steven Soderbergh. But now the sequel T2 Trainspotting is almost upon us.

"Ewan and I fell out over The Beach, and it was my fault, and we reconciled about three or four years ago," Boyle, 60, says from Australia, one stop on a worldwide promotional tour.

"So by the time we were working on this seriously, when this script arrived two years ago, we were on good terms and I knew he'd do it. It was wonderful to work with him again. I've missed him, really."

But getting McGregor, 45, to reprise his Mark Renton character — now older but not wiser, and in even bigger trouble than before — was just one of many hurdles to overcome on the sequel path. Boyle also had to round up other key members of the Trainspotting cast: flash Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), psycho Begbie (Robert Carlyle) and sad Spud (Ewen Bremner). He also found room in the film for a cameo by Renton's ex-girlfriend Diane (Kelly Macdonald), while greatly expanding the female quotient with wily new character Veronika (Anjela Nedyalkova).

Then there was the small matter of the script, which returning screenwriter John Hodge adapted from two novels by author Irvine Welsh, the original Trainspotting and its follow-up Porno.

> **I knew he'd do it. It was wonderful to work with him again. I've missed him, really.**
> Danny Boyle, on Ewan McGregor

The story had to be something the Manchester-born filmmaker really wanted to do, because his career has been noteworthy for its never-look-back variety of stories and genres. In the 23 years since his feature debut with the black comedy Shallow Grave, which also starred McGregor, he's successfully tackled horror (28 Days Later), science fiction (Sunshine), family comedy (Millions), Bollywood-style romance (Oscar winner Slumdog Millionaire) and real-life survival drama (127 Hours), among other pursuits.

There were multiple attempts at a T2 script until Boyle got one he was satisfied with.

"We did do quite a few. We had a couple of false starts 10 years ago, which were terrible. They were complete traditional sequels: different plot, same characters. Kind of the same thing again with a different engine, or with different mechanics.

"There was no greater sense of the characters coming together again, other than obviously the trigger to Renton returning. I remember thinking they're not good enough, and we'll never make this. The actors will never agree to do it; I'm not even going to send it to them."

He finally got a script that he and the actors liked, and shooting commenced. But when he was editing the film in post-production, he noticed something he hadn't before: how much the children in the middle-aged lives of Renton, Spud, Sick Boy and Begbie were affecting the tone of the film. All these guys are now struggling to Choose Life not just for themselves, but also for the children they've fathered, and not in ideal circumstances.

"What we decided in the end, in editing, is that it was really about what had happened to these men over time. We thought the film was about time (the 20 years past), and then we realized it was about masculine behaviour over time. It's about what happens to men as they age very badly." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maritimes' prodigal son stays put

INTERVIEW

Allan Hawco's love for native turf breeding much success

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Allan Hawco in Weirdos, the film about a teenager living in a small town in Nova Scotia in 1976 who decides to run away to live with his mother. CONTRIBUTED

It's the day after the Canadian Screen Awards and Allan Hawco missed out on the whole affair.

Grounded in Newfoundland after a treacherous windstorm left tens of thousands without electricity, the actor resigned to watch his latest film Weirdos pick up two CSAs from afar. But he actually didn't mind that much.

"I don't like leaving the province," laughed the 39-year-old thespian a day later. "I was bummed that I wasn't there with all my friends last night but there was a part of me that didn't mind staying a little bit later in St. John's."

Raised on The Rock, Hawco is truly one of the Maritimes' prodigal sons. Not only does he still make Newfoundland his home, but it's where the actor-producer decided to film his former six-season television hit drama Republic of Doyle and his new historical Netflix fur-trade series Frontier.

"I just kind of grew up with this severe love for Newfoundland — it's weird," explained Hawco. "I wanted more than anything in my life to produce and create television and film there and work and live there. I've wanted that far more than I might have, in my younger years, to be a Hollywood celebrity."

As such, Hawco is proving an intriguing personality in Canadian entertainment. By shunning the alluring spotlight of Tinseltown to achieve success north of the border, he's arguably inspiring other ambitious actors averse to the seductive pull of American showbiz.

In Hawco's case, it's also landed him a small-but-satisfying paternal part in Weirdos (in theatres today) where he mingled with fellow-minded flag-wavers like iconic director Bruce McDonald (Highway 61, Trigger) and celebrated scribe Daniel MacIvor.

> **The thought that our little movie has made an impact — I'm pretty proud of that**
> Allan Hawco

"He's been a mentor to me over the years," admitted Hawco of the Cape Breton playwright and his Canadian Screen Award-winning script about two teens coming-of-age as they hitchhike across 1970's Nova Scotia.

"But another reason I wanted to do the movie is because of Bruce. There's people like them who have committed their lives to telling our stories and believe in it. There's a beautiful thing when you do that and people care — that's something that's hard to achieve and when it does work, it's very special."

NEW RELEASES

Goon: Last of the Enforcers
Doug Glatt is back, though he's "not as fast and not as tough" as he used to be. Several years later, we drop in to see what's happening with the Halifax Highlanders of a minor hockey league beloved in Canada and "three or four U.S. states."

The Lure
Here's a logline for you: Two hungry, horny and topless vampire mermaids form a pop band and run wild on dry land. Too bad the shipwreck of a screenplay can't keep up with the visuals.

The Sense of an Ending
Memory is a tricky thing and sometimes what we thought we knew turns out to be not quite the case. Such as the ways life unfolds for an aging Englishman as the past intrudes into the present.

After The Storm
Typhoons rage across Japan in Hirokazu Kore-eda's bittersweet After the Storm, but they're nothing compared to the tempests of his male protagonist Ryota.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THIS WEEKEND
EXPERIENCE NEWFOUNDLAND

From whales to screech, these are some of the sights, sounds and tastes you don't want to miss when visiting this province. Read it Sunday in Toronto Star Touch.
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TORONTO STAR TOUCH EDITION

HOLLYWOOD FASHION

Tinseltown's top stylist works magic with Paulson

'Good clothes open doors'

If Sarah Paulson didn't have a stylist, she would only wear sweatpants.

The silvery Marc Jacobs sheath she wore to the Golden Globes and the dazzling emerald dress she donned at the Emmys were picked out by a professional.

"My green Prada dress that I wore to the Emmys (pictured left) was so heavy that at one point I thought I was going to throw my neck out," Paulson said. "But it did not matter to me because it was the best dress I've ever had on my body."

Fresh off her SAG, Golden Globe and Emmy Award wins for playing Marcia Clark in American Crime Story, Paulson is celebrating the woman who put together all those red carpet looks: Karla Welch, whom the Hollywood Reporter just named the industry's most powerful stylist.

Welch, along with Paulson and fellow red carpet standout Ruth Negga, appears on the cover of the magazine's special Stylists & Stars issue, which ranks Tinseltown's 25 top stylists.

"Good clothes open doors," Welch quipped when asked the best bit of style advice she ever received.

"I need her to push me out of my sweatpants and my sneakers," Paulson said Tuesday night at a Jimmy Choo-sponsored dinner honouring the magazine's sartorial stars. John Legend, Justin Timberlake, Dakota Johnson, Jonah Hill, Mary J. Blige and Mahershala Ali were among the well-dressed guests at the private party at The Ponte restaurant.

Though Paulson prefers leisurewear, she loves the ritual of getting ready for the red carpet. Having a spectacular dress to wear helps her achieve the right mindset for a million flashbulbs and screaming fans.

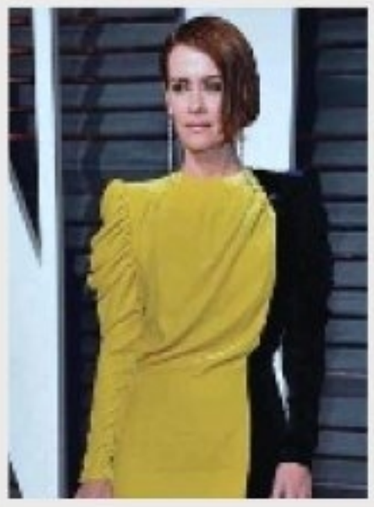
"A lot of people talk about it as being a kind of armour, and it is," she said.

Even with the help of Hollywood's top stylist, the actress said her love of sweatpants has led to some fashion regrets.

"It's not that I regret them. It's just that I know if I get photographed in them at the grocery store, I'll think, 'Oh (expletive). This is when I'm supposed to wear that jacket she told me to wear,'" Paulson said. "Then 800 people on Instagram are like, 'She's such a bum on her night off.' Really? I'm supposed to look fashionable when I'm going out to get half-and-half?"

THE ASSCOIATED PRESS

DITCHING THE SWEATPANTS How Sarah Paulson found her groove



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Gutsy IBD warriors rule Marvel graphic novel

IBD Unmasked to open up dialogue, inspire confidence

Chantel Wicks was over the moon when she was called to consult on a graphic novel featuring a team of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) superheroes. "I actually physically jumped up and down," she says.

Weaned on Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the 30-year-old teacher from Scarborough, Ont., has long been a fan of the graphic novel and is thrilled to be attending the Toronto ComiCon this weekend. As her partner pointed out, "You're such a big geek. This is perfect for you!"

But as a long-time sufferer of IBD, Wicks also knows full well the ravages of the disease. It can be a debilitating condition to live with. The two most common forms are ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, and both create painful lesions in the intestinal system, causing symptoms such as stomach pain and cramping, diarrhea, loss of appetite, fever and fatigue, as well as joint pain and other symptoms and can also impact emotional and mental well-being.

"PEOPLE ARE AFRAID, ASHAMED AND EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THEY HAVE THESE DISEASES."

– Chantel Wicks

Although Wicks talks openly about her struggles with IBD, this is an anomaly. "Many people simply suffer in silence," she says. "People are afraid, ashamed and embarrassed to admit they have these diseases."

CONTRIBUTED

The graphic novel — IBD Unmasked — developed by the creative team at Marvel Custom Solutions, is an attempt to change that by opening up dialogue, inspiring confidence and highlighting the strengths of those battling IBD.

Wicks was part of a panel of people living with IBD from around the world who were brought in to ensure this first of-its-kind initiative accurately portrays real-life experiences with the disease. It focuses on a team of five gutsy IBD warriors (The Unbeatables), "united in the fight against the real villain — IBD."

Wicks believes IBD Unmasked can have a unique impact. "I speak at events with thousands of people," she says, "but a graphic novel done by a powerhouse like Marvel and supported by a company like Takeda can reach into places I can never go."

Canada has among the highest rates of IBD in the world. Nearly 250,000 Canadians live with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. As IBD Unmasked is released chapter by chapter online at ibdunmasked.com, Wicks hopes other sufferers will get the message: that they're not alone.

MOVIE LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN

Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond
Beauty and the Beast Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:30-9:35 Mon 12:25-3:20-6:30-9:35 Tue 12:55-3:55-7:10:05 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:20-6:30-9:35; 3D Fri-Sun 12:55-1:25-3:55-4:25-7-7:30-10:05-10:40 Mon 12:55-1:25-3:55-4:25-7-7:30-10:05-10:35 Tue 12:25-1:25-3:25-4:25-6:30-7:30-9:35-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:55-1:25-3:55-4:25-7-7:30-10:05-10:35 **CHiPs** Thu 7:45-10:20 **Fifty Shades Darker** Fri-Mon 10:40 Tue-Wed 10:30 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Tue 12:25-2:55-5:25-8-10:40 Wed 1:30-4-8-9:45 Thu 12:25-2:55-5:25-8-10:40 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sun 11:30-2:15-5:15-8:10-11 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:45; IMAX Fri-Sun 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:05-11 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:40 Thu 1:45-4:45; 3D Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri-Sun 2:15-10:35 Mon 3:30-9:10 Tue 3:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 3:30-9:10; 3D Fri-Sun 11:40-4:55-7:35 Mon 1-6:30 Tue 1-6:50 Wed-Thu 1-6:30 **Life: The IMAX 2D Experience** Thu 8-10:40 **Logan** Fri-Sun 11:50-12:15-3:30-6:20-6:45-9:25-10 Mon 2-3:10-5:10-7:35-8:30-9:55 Tue 12:25-2-3:30-5:10-6:40-8:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 2-3:25-5:10-6:40-8:30-9:55 Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:25 **Rogue One** Fri-Sun 12:35-6:45 Mon 12:35-6:50;3D Fri-Sun 3:35-9:45 Mon 3:45-9:50 **Split** Fri-Sat 1:50-4:45-7:45 Sun 1:45-4:45-7:45 Mon 1:35-4:40 Tue 1:35-4:40-7:35 Wed-Thu 1:35-4:40

Market Square, 80 Front St.
Ballerina Fri-Thu 12:50-3 **Beauty and the Beast** Fri-Thu 12:45-1:15-3:35-4:05-6:30-7-9:15-9:50 **Get Out** Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:40-9:30 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Sat 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:45 Sun-Mon 3:45-9:45 Tue 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed 3:45-9:45 Thu 12:55-3:45-6:45-9:45 Sun-Mon 12:55-6:45 Wed 12:55-6:45 **Lion** Fri-Thu 6:25-9:10 **Logan** Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:55-9:55

Varsity, 55 Bloor St. W.
Beauty and the Beast Fri 4:10 Sat-Sun 11-4:10 Mon-Thu 4:10 Fri-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30; 3D Fri-Mon 1-7:20-10:25 Tue-Thu 1-7:20-10:15 Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon 12:30-3:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 **I Am Not Your Negro** Fri 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 10:35-12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:35 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Thu 4:20; 3D Fri 1:25-7:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:25-7:15-10:15 Mon 1:25-7:15-10:15 Tue-Thu 1:25-7:15-10:10 Fri 12:15-3-6-9 Sat-Sun 12-3-6-9 Mon 1-4-7-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:15-3-6-9 **Logan** Fri-Thu 12:20-3:35-6:50-10:05 Moonlight Fri 1:05-4:05-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:40-1:05-4:05-7-9:50 Mon-Tue 1:05-4:05-7-9:50 Wed 12:55-3:45-9:50 Thu 1:05-4:05-7-9:50 **The Sense of an Ending** Fri 2-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sat-Sun 10:30-2-4:50-7:35-10:20 Mon 2-4:50-7:35-10:20 Tue-Thu 2-4:50-7:35-10:15 **T2 Trainspotting** Fri 12:35-1:35-3:30-4:30-6:25-7:25-9:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 10:40-12:35-1:35-3:30-4:30-6:25-7:25-9:20-10:20 Mon-Tue 12:35-1:35-3:30-4:30-6:25-7:25-9:20-10:20 Wed 12:35-1:35-3:30-4:30-6:45-7:25-10:15-10:20 Thu 12:35-1:35-3:30-4:30-6:25-7:25-9:20-10:20 Fri 1-4-7-10 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 12:15-3-6:30-10 Tue-Thu 1-4-7-10

Yonge & Dundas 10 Dundas St.
Arrival Fri 4:10-7:10-10:05 Sat 4-7:10-10:05 Sun 4:10-7:10-10:05 Mon 10:40 Tue 7:50-10:45 Wed 10:20 Thu 7:10-10:05 **Badrinath Ki Dulhania** Fri 1:40-4:45-7:50-10:55 Sat-Sun 10:40-1:40-4:45-7:50-10:55 Mon-Thu 1:55-5-7:50-10:55 **Ballerina** Fri 2:05-4:30-6:50 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:05-4:30-6:50 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:15-6:50 Thu 4:15-8:10 **Beauty and the Beast** Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:20-5:20-6:30-9:35 Fri-Sat 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sun-Thu 11:45-3-6:15-9:30 Fri-Sun 11-2:10-5:10-8:10-11:15 Mon-Thu 2-5-8-11; 3D Fri-Sun 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:45-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Fri-Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sun-Mon 12:45-4-7:15-10:20 Tue 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:20; IMAX Fri-Sun 1:10-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:55-7-10:05 Fri-Sun 4:10 Mon-Thu 3:55 **Before I Fall** Fri 1:45-4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:45-4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20 **Bluebeard** Fri 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon 1:25-4:05-7:50-10 Tue-Thu 1:25-4:05-6:40-9:30 **A Dog's Purpose** Fri 4:30-7:20 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:30-7:20 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20 **Fist Fight** Fri-Sun 7:30-9:45 Mon-Wed 8:20-10:35 **Get Out** Fri 3:15-6-8:40-11:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6-8:40-11:20 Mon-Wed 2:35-5:20-8:20-11 Thu 2:35-5:05-8:10-10:40 Fri-Sat 11:30-5-8-11:15 Sun-Thu 11:30-4:45-7:45-10:45 **Hidden Figures** Fri 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55 **Kong: Skull Island** 3D Fri-Sat 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Sun-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 **La La Land** Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon-Tue 1:20-4-7:30-10:30 Wed 1:20-4-7:50-10:45 Thu 1:20-4-7:35-10:30 **The Last Word** Fri 1:20-4-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:50 Mon-Wed 1:25-4:10-6:50-9:50 Thu 4:10-6:50-9:50 **Lion** Fri 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30 **Logan** Fri-Sat 1:30-2:30-6-9:15 Sun-Thu 1:15-2:15-5:45-9 **Moana** Fri 2-4:45 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:35 **Saban's Power Rangers** Thu 7-10:10 **Saturday Night Fever** Tue 7 **The Shack** Fri-Wed 9:10 Thu 10:30 **Sing** Fri 1:50 Sat-Sun 11-1:30 **Sword Art Online the Movie** Fri 1:30-4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:30 Mon 1:30-4-7-9:30 Tue 2-10 Wed 4:30-9:30 Thu 1:30-4-10:20 Table 19 Fri-Thu 10:30 **A United Kingdom** Fri 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon-Thu 8:10-10:50

MIDTOWN

Yonge-Eglinton Centre 2300 Yonge St.
Beauty and the Beast Fri-Tue 12:45-6:50 Wed 6:50 Thu 12:45-6:50 Fri 3:30-6:30-9:45 Sat 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:45 Sun 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:30 Mon 3:30-6:30-9:30 Tue 3:30-6:30-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30; 3D Fri-Thu 3:45-9:55 Fri 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sat 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:45-10:50 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Mon 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30 Tue 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30 Fri 4:15-7:30-10:45 Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sun 1-4:15-7:30-10:30 Mon 4:15-7:30-10:30 Tue 4:15-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:30-10:30 **Get Out** Fri 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Sat 11:45-2:20-5-8:10-40 Sun 1:45-5:05-7:55-10:40 Mon 12:35-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Tue 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri 12:30-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25 Sat 12-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:25 Sun-Tue 12:30-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25 Wed 3:25-7-10:25 Thu 12:30-3:25-6:45-10:25 **Hidden Figures** Fri 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 3:35-6:30-9:40 Mon-Tue 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:40 Wed 12:40-3:35-9:50 Thu 12:40-3:35-9:25 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri 4:20 Sat 4:30 Sun-Thu 4:20; 3D Fri 1:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:35-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:15-7:15-10:15 Mon 1:10-7:15-10:10 Tue 1:15-7:15-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:10-7:15-10:10 Fri 3:50-7-10:15 Sat 12:40-3:45-7-10:15 Sun 12:40-3:45-7-10 Mon 3:50-7-10 Tue 3:50-7-10:15 Wed-Thu 3:50-7-10 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 12:30-3-5:30 Sat 11:20-1:50-4:55 Sun 12:20-3-5:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-3-5:30; 3D Fri 8-10:30 Sat 7:25-10 Sun-Wed 8-10:30 Life Thu 8-10:30 **Logan** Fri 12:50-1:30-3:55-4:35-7-7:40-10:05-10:45 Sat 12:10-12:50-3:55-4:35-7-7:40-10:05-10:45 Sun 12:15-12:50-3:55-4:35-7-7:40-10:05-10:45 Mon 12:30-1:10-3:35-4:15-6:40-7:20-9:45-10:25 Tue 12:50-1:30-3:55-4:35-7-7:40-10:05-10:45 Wed 12:30-1:10-3:35-4:15-6:40-9:45-10:25 Thu 12:30-1:10-3:35-4:15-7:20-10:25 **Saban's Power Rangers** Thu 7:20-10:20 **The Wizard of Oz** Sat 11

NORTH YORK

Empress Walk 5095 Yonge St.
Beauty and the Beast Fri 3:50 Sat 3:40 Sun 3:50 Mon-Tue 3:55 Wed-Thu 3:50; 3D Fri 12:50-7-10:05 Sat 12:30-6:50-10 Sun 12:50-7-10:05 Mon-Tue 7-10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:50; IMAX Fri 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sat 10:25-1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Mon-Tue 4:25-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20 **Bluebeard** Fri 1:35-4:35-7:20-10:10 Sat 10:55-1:45-4:35-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:35-4:35-7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 4:55-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:40-10:20 **Fabricated City** Fri 12:35-3:35-6:30-9:30 Sat 3:30-6:30-9:40 Sun 6:30-9:30 Mon-Tue 4:45-7:40-10:35 Wed 4:25-9:30 Thu 4:35 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sat 11:05-1:55-4:50-7:50-10:25 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Tue 5:05-7:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:55-7:35-10:05 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Sun 4 Mon-Tue 4:15 Wed-Thu 4:10; 3D Fri 1:10-7:10-10:20 Sat 10:25-1:10-7:10-10 Sun 1:10-7:10-10:20 Mon-Tue 7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 7:10-10 **La La Land** Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Sat 10:35-1:35-4:40-7:40-10:40 Sun 12:35-3:35-6:40-9:40 Mon-Tue 3:55-6:50-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:40 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 12:20-8:10 Sat 10:45-12-8 Sun 12:20-8:10 Mon-Tue 6:40 Wed-Thu 6:30; 3D Fri 3-5:35-10:40 Sat 2:40-5:20-10:40 Sun 3-5:35-10:40 Mon-Tue 4:10-9:25 Wed-Thu 4-9:15 **Logan** Fri 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Sat 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:10-10:20 Wed-Thu 3:55-7-10:10 **Saban's Power Rangers** Thu 7:30-10:20 **Table 19** Fri 1-3:10-5:25-7:45-10:25 Sat 1:15-4:55-7:10-9:30 Sun 1-3:10-5:25-7:45-10:25 Mon-Tue 4:35-6:55-9:35 Wed-Thu 4:30-6:45-9:20

SilverCity Yorkdale 6 3401 Dufferin St.
Ballerina Fri 2-4:15 Sat 12-2:30-5 Sun 12-2:15-5 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:10 **Beauty and the Beast** Fri 7-10:05 Sat 6:30-9:40 Sun 7-10:05 Mon-Thu 7-10 Fri 12:55-3:55 Sat 12:30-3:40 Sun 12:55-3:55 Mon-Thu 1-4; 3D Fri 12:25-3:25-6:30-9:35 Sat 1-4:10-7:15-10:20 Sun 12:25-3:25-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Fri 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sat 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:45-10:50 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:35 **CHiPs** Thu 7:50-10:25 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri 11 **Get Out** Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20 Sat 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Sat 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Sun 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2-4:50-7:50-10:30 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri 9:45 Sat 9:30 Sun 9:45 Mon-Wed 9:50 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri 1:50-7:45 Sat 11:30-2:15-8 Sun 1:50-7:45 Mon-Wed 12:40-6:40 Thu 1:10; 3D Fri 4:50-10:40 Sat 5:10-10:50 Sun 4:50-10:40 Mon-Wed 3:30-9:40 Thu 4:10 Fri 1-4 Sat 12:45-3:30 Sun 1-4 Mon-Wed 1:10-4:10 Thu 12:40-3:40 Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat 7-10 Sun-Thu 7:10-10:10 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 3:45 Sat 3:55 Sun 3:45 Mon-Thu 4:20; 3D Fri-Sun 1:15-6:40 Mon-Wed 1:20-6:50 Thu 1:20 Life Thu 7:20-10:05 **Logan** Fri 12-3:35-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Sat 11:45-3:15-6:50-7:35-9:55-10:40 Sun 12-3:35-6:50-7:20-10-10:30 Mon-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:45-10:25 Thu 12:50-3:50-7-10:15 **Saban's Power Rangers** Thu 7:20-10:15 **The Secret Life of Pets** Fri 11:15 **Storks** Fri 11:45 **Trolls** Fri 11:30 **The Wizard of Oz** Sat 11

Silvercity Fairview 1800 Sheppard Ave.
Ballerina Fri 2:10-4:45 Sat-Sun 11-2:10-4:45 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:45 Wed 4:45 Thu 2:10-4:45 **Beauty and the Beast** Fri-Sun 11:05-3:55 Mon-Thu 3:55; 3D Fri-Sun 12:55-7-10:05 Mon 7-10 Tue 12:55-7-10:05 Wed-Thu 7-10:05 Fri 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sat 10:25-1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Mon 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:35 Tue 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:35 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri 11 **Get Out** Fri-Sun 1:50-5:15-8:15-10:50 Mon 1:40-5:15-7:50-10:20 Tue 1:50-5:15-8:15-10:50 Wed-Thu 1:40-5:15-7:50-10:20 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:50-10:25 Wed 5:10-7:50-10:25 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:50-10:25 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri-Sun 10:55 Mon 9:45 Tue 10:55 Wed-Thu 9:45 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri 1:15-7:10 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:15-7:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:15-7:10 Wed-Thu 7:10; 3D Fri-Sun 2:05-4:15-4:55-7:45-10:05-10:45 Mon 2:05-4:15-4:55-7:45-10:05-10:35 Tue 2:05-4:15-4:55-7:45-10:05-10:45 Wed 1:40-4:15-4:55-7:45-10:05-10:35 Thu 2:05-4:15-4:55-7:45-10:05-10:35 **The LEGO Batman Movie** Fri 12:30-3:05-5:40 Sat-Sun 11:35-12:30-3:05-5:40 Mon 1:55-4:30 Tue 3:05-5:40 Wed 4:30 Thu 1:55-4:30; 3D Fri-Sun 8:20 Mon 7:10 Tue 8:20 Wed-Thu 7:10 **Logan** Fri-Sat 2-4:30-7:20-7:55-10:30-11 Sun 11-2-4:30-7:20-7:55-10:30-11 Mon 2-3:35-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:30 Tue 2-4:30-7:20-7:55-10:30-11 Wed 2-3:35-6:40-7:20-9:50-10:30 Thu 2-3:35-6:40-9:50 **Saban's Power Rangers** Thu 7:20-10:20 **The Secret Life of Pets** Fri 11 **Storks** Fri 11:45 **Trolls** Fri 11:30 **The Wizard of Oz** Sat 11

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

The Who to become the first rock band to take up residency at Caesars Palace this summer

The *urban Cuba* you don't know

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A model exhibits an original creation at Fábrica de Arte Cubano; dancers perform an Afro-Cuban dance; diners snap a photo outside San Cristóbal Paladar; the narrow streets of old Havana; and visitors line up outside Fábrica de Arte Cubano.

It's a shame, really: 99 per cent of Canadians visiting Cuba stay in resorts. That's not an exaggeration; it's a quote from the director of Cuba's tourism board. We go for the sun and sand, complain about the resort food, and — while we may do a day trip — go home without really appreciating the island nation. Venture off resort, and you'll encounter a country on the cusp of change, rich in history and home to amazing and resilient people. Here are a few things you'll see.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DEAN LISK/METRO CANADA

Eternal Havana

While the sharp details of the cornices, balustrades and mouldings of Havana's patchwork-painted buildings are eroding like water poured over a sugar cube, they are not dead or abandoned spaces. The sounds of daily life still filter through the half-open shutters or the cracked window glass.

A move is underway in Old Havana, founded in 1519, to restore many of these once- and still-elegant buildings using tourism revenue. Others are being restored privately, including a five-storey building across from Parque Central which once housed a shopping arcade and schools. The gutted, sand-blasted and re-painted interior will soon open as the Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana (shown left). The luxury hotel includes a rooftop pool with views of the Great Theatre of Havana and the dome of the Capital.

Rich in history, the Hotel Nacional de Cuba stands on a small hill above the wave-etched Malecón sea wall in the Vedado neighbourhood. Built in 1930 with the understanding it would only ever fly the Cuban flag, it is a silent character in national events that have played out since its construction.

Some of the rooms in the eight-floor hotel are named after its famous guests, like Errol Flynn, Fred Astaire, Rita Hayworth and Nat King Cole. A mafia suite pays homage to a summit U.S. gangsters held in the hotel in 1946 organized by Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky. An adjoining door opens to the one used by Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner. The walls of the private bar, open only to hotel guests, is lined with photos of all the famous people who have stayed there over the last 85 years.

While many hotels have in-house restaurants, try exploring Havana's ripening culinary scene instead. Rent an oldtimer (the classic 1950s cars still being used) or a coco taxi (a two-seater car pulled by a bicycle) and head out to one of the city's best restaurants. San Cristóbal — where Barack Obama ate when he visited in 2016 — is one the growing number of paladares (privately-owned restaurants, as opposed to state-operated ones) infusing the capital's food scene with innovative takes on traditional dishes. The Cuban-Creole menu includes lobster, steak, fresh local fish and roasted pork.

Contemporary Culture

Yes, Havana has — for lack of a better term — hipsters. Lined up two deep along the wall encircling the Fabrica de Arte Cubano, a former factory transformed into an exhibition space, they wait to be allowed in to enjoy the music and performances in the Vedado region of the city.

Held in their hands or tucked in the pockets of their skinny jeans and slacks is a card given at the door on which bartenders will record what drinks are ordered. The old factory is a canvas on which Cubans are reflecting their own experiences in a post-Fidel Cuba. Once you are done with the art, music and dancing, you must show your card at the door and pay for your drinks. Lose the card and there is a penalty fee.

If your trip to Fabrica has you convinced you need a lesson in loosening your hips, Currys Dance School can help you with your backbone slide. The school is located across the street from Havana's only mosque and was recently renovated to allow more space for lessons, which cost 15 CUC an hour. A major investor in the school is Vancouverite Alessandra Quaglia. Coming to Havana for a number of years for an annual Salsa Festival, she ended up staying for a few extra months to improve her steps, and, after her visit, made the decision to invest in the space. "I just went with it," Quaglia says. "Once you get a taste of it, it's like a bug, an addiction."

To get a sense of how important dance and music is in Havana — and the rest of Cuba — no trip is complete without a visit to Tropicana. It's a bit of a cliché, but this outdoor show has been cha cha cha-ing along for more than 80 years with its head-dressed showgirls, baritone singers and elaborate stage numbers. Even if it's not your thing, you are given a cigar and a bottle of rum (one for four people to share) and your choice of cola or water so you can pour at 'libre' when you are seated.

Historical Heroes and icons

With his death in November, you'd expect to see images of el comandante, Fidel Castro, throughout the capital city. His bearded portrait is there, but spying it is rare. You're more likely to see bereted Che Guevara — whose image appears prominently on the side of the Ministry of Interior Building – staring back at you from photographs, painting and street art.

More likely to turn your head from Cuban adoration is a literary hero, one from Cuba's liberators from Spain rather than from Capitalism, José Martí. A statue of the poet, journalist and philosopher looms over the Plaza de la Revolución, his bust sits in front of schools, and — standing with a child cradled in one arm and the other raised in defiance and pointing behind him, finger outstretched — staring from the plaza in front the U.S. embassy.

Still, it's an American whose legend haunts the city and nearby countryside. Like the patron saint of tourism, Ernest Hemingway's memory looms as large as his drinking habits.

Shoulder-to-shoulder tourists pack into La Bodeguita del Medio at 10 a.m. for mojitos (the rum, sugar and mint-filed drink inspiring revelers to carve their names into the restaurant's wooden shuttered front facade), wait in line at El Floridita to sip on an afternoon or evening daiquiri, or pay their respect by leaning through the windows into the writer's home, Finca Vigia, a few kilometers outside Havana. There you can see the mounted heads of rare big game animals, bookshelves lined with well-read tomes and Hemingway's war correspondent uniform stiffly hanging in the closet off his bedroom. Outside, you can get a bit closer to Hemingway's pet cemetery where he buried his dogs; Black, Negrita, Linda and Neron (his pet cats apparently didn't warrant grave markers).

The author of these pieces was hosted by Cuba Tourism, which didn't review or approve the stories.

5 AREAS OF CUBA YOU NEED TO VISIT

How safe is Cuba? Well, safe enough that hitchhiking is a part of the culture. Along the roads leading out of the city you will find people whose job it is to flag cars to bring you closer to your destination. Vehicles owned by the government, with empty seats, are obliged to stop. Ask the driver if they would like to be paid for the trip, but it's not always expected. Whether you decide to follow the local example — or rent a car for your stay — here are five places to visit. **METRO CANADA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES**

DEAN LISK/METRO CANADA

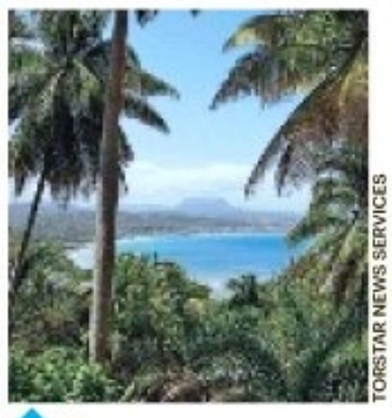
1 Viñales

This community in the western end of the island shares its name with the valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its outdoor activities — hiking, horseback riding — and unique steep-sided hills called mogotes. During a visit, Fidel Castro suggested the cliff face of one of the mogotes would be perfect for a mural. Local officials took his suggestion and ran with it. The result is the Mural de la Prehistoria: a primary colour filled image of dinosaurs, humans and monsters. The site is popular and a restaurant nearby serves a traditional Cuban meal of rice and beans with pork and chicken.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

2 Guantanamo

Count the number of times you hear the Guantanamera. Jose Fernandez's song uses words from a poem by beloved Cuban revolutionary and poet Jose Marti. Anyone can belt out the chorus, "Guantanamera, guajira Guantanamera" and throw in a few "oye, oye's." Guantanamo is a province and city in southeastern Cuba that hopes to be known for more than just a military prison and catchy song. It's easy to see why.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

3 Baracoa

You need four days to properly appreciate this isolated city on Cuba's eastern tip. Until a highway from Guantanamo was built through the mountains in the 1960s, the only way to get here was by sea. This bewitching land of cacao and coconuts, mountains and rivers has beaches that are rocky and wild, not sandy and pretty. Spend your time exploring and eating. People who complain about the food in Cuba clearly never get off the resort.

DEAN LISK/METRO CANADA

4 Matanzas

In Matanzas visit the Boteca Francesca Dr. E Triolet. While it stopped operating as a pharmacy in 1964, it is a now a museum where glass jars and canisters still hold some of the ingredients used to fill prescriptions. Founded in 1882, the pharmacy was famous distributing a coffee syrup used to treat asthma, as well as concocted wine-based remedies for anemia and a scorpion-infused oil for kidney problems.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

5 Bayamo

Wander into Bayamo's stadium to watch players practice, staff spruce up the banners and kids gawk at their heroes. Baseball plays hard to get here. Every town has a stadium, but getting details on games, professional or otherwise, is a challenge. Tickets are cheap, though you can pay double (pennies for locals and dollars for tourists) to sit in the special netted area behind home plate, behind the guy filming the game for TV.

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metro SPORTS

The Senators will reportedly host the Canadiens in December in a special outdoor Heritage Classic to mark the NHL's 100th anniversary

Russell Westbrook turns aside the Raptors' Norman Powell. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA

Raptors struck by Russ

THURSDAY At ACC

123	102
THUNDER	RAPTORS

The Toronto Raptors were virtual spectators for the Russell Westbrook show Thursday.

The Oklahoma City guard had 24 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds for his 34th triple double of the season, as the Thunder roared past the Raptors 123-102 for their fourth straight win.

Westbrook, who took less than three quarters to notch his triple-double, now needs just seven more to beat Oscar Robertson's single-season record.

The Raptors (39-29) have won just once in their last four

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays brass play hardball

MLB

Sanchez says he's not irked by minimum-salary fracas

For the first time in his pro career, Aaron Sanchez enters a season with no pre-set limits on the number of innings he can pitch.

The all-star starting pitcher logged 192 big-league innings last season — not including playoffs — and did a quick August stint with the Buffalo Bisons aimed at saving his powerful right arm for a post-season run.

The Jays won't cap Sanchez's workload this year, but they continue to place a ceiling on his salary, renewing his contract at a league-minimum $535,000 US after Sanchez turned down a modest raise.

Sanchez made $517,800 last year.

The decision prompted Sanchez's agent, Scott Boras, to blast Jays management in an interview with Sportsnet, but Sanchez insisted any acrimony between his agent and his team doesn't seep into his dealings with coaches and management.

And Sanchez added his long-term future includes Toronto.

"I'm here for another four years, so there's nothing to worry about," Sanchez said after leaving Thursday's 11-5 loss to the New York Yankees. "Obviously, we came upon a disagreement ... This is still a business. It's (just) a spot where we didn't agree."

Sanchez acknowledged turning down the Jays' offer but declined to explain why he made that decision. Likewise, general manager Ross Atkins wouldn't specify dollar amounts, but he told reporters that Sanchez's rejection of the offer prompted the club to opt for the league minimum rather than negotiate further.

Sanchez becomes eligible for salary arbitration after this season, but until then the team has discretion over how much to pay him. Atkins said renewing the star pitcher at the league minimum falls under a decade-old Blue Jays policy on paying players not yet eligible for arbitration.

But the GM also acknowledged that nothing prevents the club from adjusting the policy or giving Sanchez a substantial raise.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NATHAN DENETTE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1,050,000

Other pre-arbitration players, like the Cubs' Kris Bryant and Boston's Mookie Betts, received hefty pay increases after standout rookie seasons. Bryant makes $1,050,000 in 2017, Betts will earn $950,000.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

U.S. women stand pat on boycott intentions

A deadline for the U.S. women's hockey team to decide whether they will boycott the upcoming world championships passed Thursday without players changing their mind in a standoff with USA Hockey over wages.

"We are focused on the issue of equitable support and stand by our position," the players said in a statement released shortly after 5 p.m. ET. "We continue to be grateful for the encouragement and loyalty of our fans."

The powerhouse U.S. women's program has been plunged into chaos less than a week before the scheduled start of training camp and just over two weeks from defending its world championship gold medal on home ice in Plymouth, Mich. Coach Ken Klee was replaced by Robb Stauber earlier this month, and now it's unclear how USA Hockey will fill its roster for a tournament it has won six of the past eight times and was expected to serve as a measuring stick for next year's Olympics. just 11 months away.

GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL LEAFS GIVE LIGHTNING A LICKING
Frederik Andersen makes a save on Lightning forward Nikita Kucherov during Thursday night's game at Amalie Arena. The Leafs got goals from Roman Polak, Morgan Rielly, Matt Martin, Connor Brown and James van Riemsdyk while Andersen bounced back from Tuesday night's loss to the Panthers, in which he allowed three goals on five shots, with a 33-save shutout in Thursday's 5-0 win in Tampa, Fla. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

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Fighting Irish escape upset grip of Tigers

Notre Dame's Austin Torres blocks a shot by Princeton's Steven Cook on Thursday in Buffalo. MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

MARCH MADNESS

Another Big Ten team sent home by Middle Tennessee

The Fighting Irish avoided the dreaded upset from a 12th seed in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Barely.

Bonzie Colson scored 18 points and the West Region's fifth-seeded Fighting Irish avoided a meltdown in the final two minutes to hang on for a 60-58 win over the Princeton Tigers on Thursday afternoon.

After Notre Dame's Matt Farrell missed the front end of a one-and-one with a 59-58 lead, Princeton had a chance to win on its final possession. Devin Cannady missed an open three-pointer, and Notre Dame's Steve Vasturia pulled down the rebound and was fouled.

"We gave everybody a show, right?" Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "We escaped. We've been in a lot of games like that where game situations need a big defensive stop. We've been there. I'm proud we're still alive."

Farrell appeared stunned after the game. He wore a scowl as he nearly left the floor through the wrong exit after Cannady's miss.

Farrell finished with 16 points but in a game the Fighting Irish (26-9) nearly squandered an 11-point second half lead. They also led 59-54 with 1:10 left.

Spencer Weisz led Princeton with 15 points. The Ivy League champion Tigers (23-7) had a 19-game winning streak going into the NCAA Tournament.

"We had a shot," Princeton coach Mitch Henderson said. "Right now, this one hurts. When you're in the locker-room, it's hard to say a proper 'Thank you,' because it feels like goodbye."

> **No matter how it looked, we got the win and that's all that matters.**
> Notre Dame's Bonzie Colson

At Milwaukee, another 12th-seeded team was able to pull off the upset.

Middle Tennessee took down a Big Ten team in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year, beating Minnesota 81-72.

Middle Tennessee defeated Michigan State as a No. 15 seed last March.

This time around, the Blue Raiders (31-4) played like seasoned NCAA veterans with the way they held off the Gophers' comeback attempt from a 17-point deficit.

They will move on to face No. 4 seed Butler in the South's second round on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First round in pictures

PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

1. Middle Tennessee, a 12th seed, beat fifth-seeded Minnesota 81-72 for the tournament's first upset.
2. No. 11 seed Xavier ousted sixth-seeded Maryland 76-65.
3. Northwestern edged Vanderbilt 68-66 in its tournament debut.
4. Overall No. 1 seed Villanova defeated Mount St. Mary's 76-56.

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Ageless Defoe back in England setup

SOCCER

Prolific ex-TFC striker, 34, was picked by new boss Southgate

Jermain Defoe was recalled to the England squad at the age of 34 on Thursday, more than three years after last playing for the national team.

The Sunderland striker is among 26 players selected for England's upcoming matches after captain Wayne Rooney, Daniel Sturridge and Harry Kane were ruled out because of injury.

Defoe, a former striker for Major League Soccer's Toronto FC, has scored 19 goals in 55 England appearances but last played in 2013. Although Sunderland is last in the Premier League, Defoe has 14 goals from 27 appearances.

"Year after year he's phenomenal, but this year in particular, in a team that aren't creating as many chances as other teams, his strike rate is outstanding," England coach Gareth Southgate said ahead of games against Germany and Lithuania. "I didn't want to just look at his age and think he's finished with England.

"I think you get young players with a point to prove and older players with a point to prove."

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has also been called up by Southgate, whose side plays a friendly in Germany on Wednesday before hosting Lithuania in a World Cup qualifier on March 26.

Southgate also turned to West Bromwich Albion midfielder Jake Livermore, whose only England appearance came in 2012. Luke Shaw, who has played only twice for Manchester United since November, is in the squad because Tottenham defender Danny Rose is injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FULL SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Fraser Forster, Joe Hart, Tom Heaton.
Defenders: Ryan Bertrand, Gary Cahill, Nathaniel Clyne, Phil Jones, Michael Keane, Luke Shaw, Chris Smalling, John Stones, Kyle Walker.
Midfielders: Dele Alli, Michail Antonio, Ross Barkley, Eric Dier, Adam Lallana, Jesse Lingard, Jake Livermore, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Nathan Redmond, Raheem Sterling, James Ward-Prowse.
Strikers: Jermain Defoe, Marcus Rashford, Jamie Vardy

Jermain Defoe has 14 goals in 27 games with Sunderland so far this Premier League season. DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES

MLS

New deal a reward for TFC's Hagglund

Toronto FC has rewarded defender Nick Hagglund with a new contract and signed Finnish centre back Johan Brunell.

In recent months, Toronto has rewritten contracts for Hagglund, goalkeeper Clint Irwin and forward Tosaint Ricketts to keep them in the fold long-term. Hagglund's new, improved deal replaces the current contract and includes longer term.

Hagglund, 24, in his fourth year with the club, starts on the left side of coach Greg Vanney's three-man backline.

Nick Hagglund GETTY IMAGES

At US$63K last season, according to MLS Players Union salary figures, Hagglund was a bargain.

Centre back Brunell, 25, played most recently for FF Jaro, where he made 101 appearances in the Finnish first and second divisions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Long term president of African soccer voted out

Issa Hayatou was voted out as president of the African soccer confederation on Thursday after 29 years in charge, ending his tenure as FIFA senior vice-president.

Hayatou's 34-20 loss to Ahmad in a vote by the Confederation of African Football's member countries delivered a seismic shakeup for soccer on the continent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United into Europa last 8

Manchester United's progress to the Europa League quarterfinals came at a cost after Paul Pogba hobbled off with a hamstring injury in the 1-0 win over Rostov on Thursday.

The English club ended up stumbling through to the last eight, with Juan Mata's 70th-minute goal winning the second leg with a 2-1 victory on aggregate.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Decadent Chinese 5-Spice Chocolate Chip Skillet Cookie

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You need a chocolate-y splurge that will herald the weekend and this skillet cookie rises to the challenge.

Ready in minutes
Prep time: minutes
Cook time: minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup melted coconut oil (you can also use butter)
- 1 1/2 cups spelt flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp Chinese 5 spice
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350. In an 8-inch oven proof skillet, add coconut oil and place it in the oven to melt. Remove skillet and pour out the melted oil into a glass measuring cup, leaving behind enough to grease your pan; set aside to cool.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, Chinese 5-Spice and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg and then add the sugars and extract. Stir until blended. Add the coconut oil and mix until blended. Pour the sugar mixture into the flour and mix until combined.

3. Scrape batter into prepared skillet making sure it is evenly distributed. Bake cookie for 18 to 20 minutes or until outer edges are browned and puffed. Let cool in the skillet. Serve in skillet or turn out; cut into wedges.

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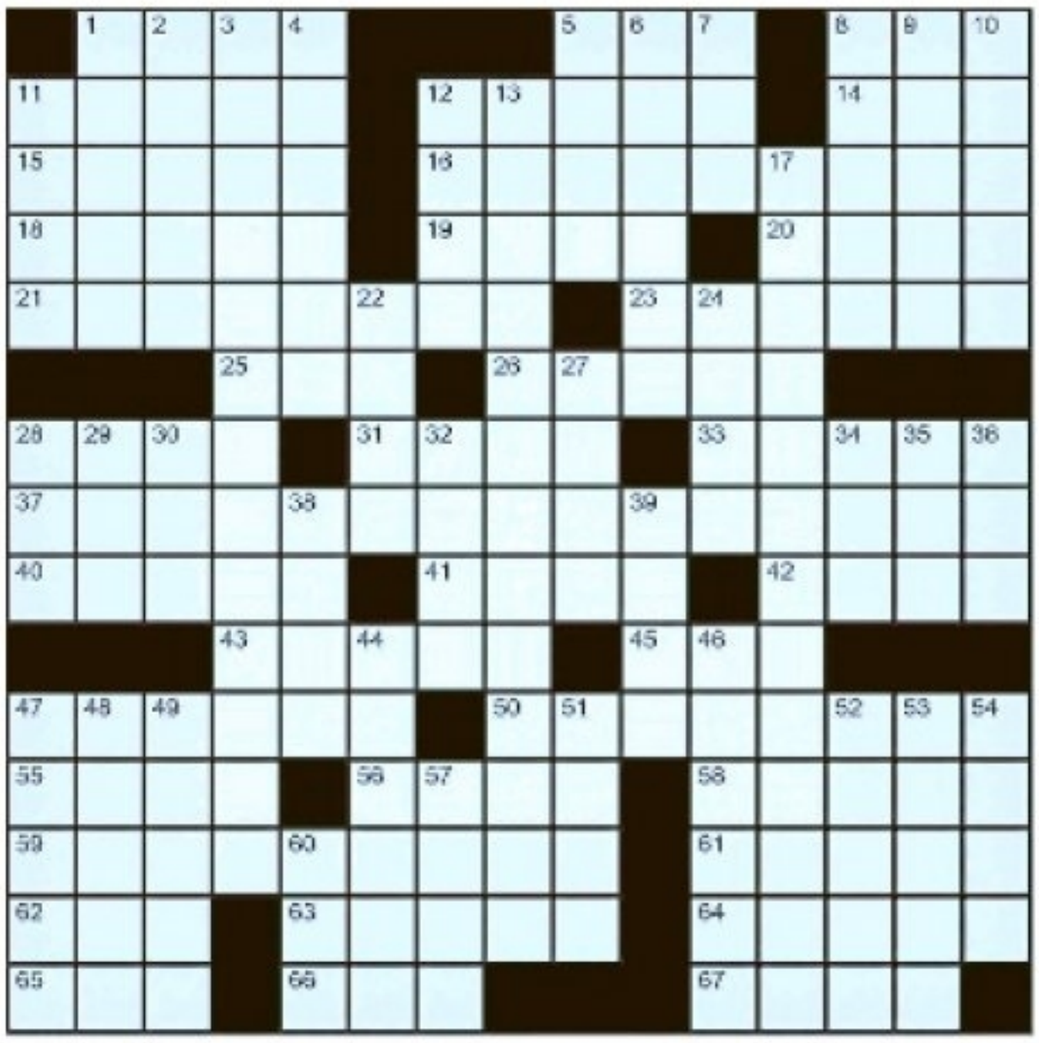
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Vault
5. Initials-sharers of Tina Fey's frequent co-star
8. 'Free' suffix
11. Irish actor Mr. Farrell
12. Attempt
14. Chemical suffix
15. Latin for 'in the meantime' [abbr.]: 2 wds.
16. Effects everlastingness
18. 'Sleep'-meaning prefix
19. Info-finding documents, e.g.
20. Harness
21. Ireland, poetically
23. Isolate, as a stranded castaway
25. 'Earth'-meaning prefix
26. Quizzes
28. 'Ranch' suffix
31. A Doll's House wife
33. Important invention
37. 1911 work by Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw: 3 wds.
40. Does better than B+: wd. + letter
41. American univ.
42. Not in use
43. Work the eggs in the bowl
45. US politics elephant gr.
47. Run by the other runner again
50. New _ _ (Period when archaeological site the Ceide Fields in County Mayo in Ireland was created)
55. "May _ _ you a question?"
56. "..._ _ you want pizza instead?" (Takeout query)
58. Better skilled
59. Potpie morsels: 2 wds.
61. Profits
62. Shiba _ (Non sporting dog)
63. Some electronics
64. Provide, as with some trait
65. Father
66. Fuss
67. Nutrition amts.

DOWN
1. "Me too.": 3 wds.
2. Out on _ _ (Not in one's comfort zone)
3. Book of 1939 by Irish author James Joyce: 2 wds.
4. Complete
5. Buy _ _ of dishes (Expand one's tableware)
6. Analyzes
7. Prefix with 'thesis'
8. Stupefies
9. Barbara of "Gone with the Wind" (1939)
10. Intervening, in law
11. Money
12. Prefix to 'ferous' (Conveying air)
13. Annual parade in March in cities such as Montreal and Toronto: 3 wds.
17. Music group, perhaps marching in an event such as #13-Down: 3 wds.
22. Montreal refusals
24. Food package abbr.: 2 wds.
27. 'Grey' tea
28. Alphabet trio
29. Actress, Charlotte _
30. Chg. card percentage
32. Beatles: "Two _ _"
34. Yore
35. 'Ether' suffix
36. Caustic stuff
38. Derisive cries!
39. Palm starch
44. Crustacean that has 14 legs
46. Hurling siege engine of ancient Rome
47. Unyielding
48. Make money, _ _ living
49. Pretension person
51. Flip a coin
52. Village in southeast Saskatchewan
53. Class/sort, in biology
54. Gaelic
57. Home contractor's gig
60. US intelligence org.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today will have some challenges, because whatever you do, you will encounter obstacles. You might feel like you're behind the 8-ball. Good luck.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Your efforts with a group, or perhaps a friend, will be stymied because of some kind of limitation. It could be financial. There's not enough money in the coffers.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You are high-viz right now. Nevertheless, a partner or close friend might object to what you want to do. This will create problems for you. Easy does it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Do not get involved in discussions about religion, politics or racial issues today, because an authority figure will overrule you or shut you down. Just keep a low profile.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your plans to investigate how to share or divide something likely will be met with resistance. Not everyone is ready to endorse your ideas. Perhaps you should wait another day?

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
No matter what you try to do to break out of your rut, some kind of barrier will hold you back today. This is a poor day to ask for permission or an endorsement. Don't ask for anything.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A boss or authority figure at work might squelch your plans. This is why you seem to be world-weary at work today. Just keep on trucking, one day at a time.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Children might add increased responsibility today. Plus, plans to socialize and have fun will be met with obstacles. Something will hold you back.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is not a good day to ask for permission or anything from a parent or an older family member. His or her answer will be "Talk to the hand."

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's easy to fall into worry mode today. Remember: "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but gets you nowhere."

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your finances look a bit bleak today. (Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money?) And so it goes.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You cannot ignore your duties and responsibilities today. It's just a fact. Don't try to break free. Just suck it up and do what is expected.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	6	9				2	8	
8			7		6			1
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2			9					3
	5	8				9	1	
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	2	1				4	5	

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WORLD PREMIERE
MARCH 19
ANNE
SUNDAYS 8
SNAP TO
UNLOCK

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DAN STEVENS
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